

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of controlling the speaker volume on a communications device, comprising the steps of:

(a) sampling the ambient noise level in the vicinity of the communications device to detect a first sample noise level;

(b) determining whether the first sample noise level is greater than a threshold level;

(c) automatically adjusting the volume of the speaker to a first volume level sufficient to overcome the first sample noise level and maintaining the volume of the speaker at the first volume level;

(d) resampling the ambient noise level in the vicinity of the communications device to detect a second sample noise level;

(e) determining whether the second sample ambient noise level is greater than the threshold level; and

(f) automatically readjusting the volume of the speaker to a second volume level sufficient to overcome the second sample noise level and maintaining the volume of the speaker at the second volume level.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the communications device comprises a mobile telephone.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting an initial speaker volume level.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising enabling steps (a) - (f) via a button associated with the communications device.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising repeating steps (d) - (f).

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising delaying repeating step (d) after step (f) for a predetermined amount of time.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein step (f) comprises one of increasing and decreasing speaker volume.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein ambient noise sampling is accomplished via a microphone.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein ambient noise sampling is accomplished with a microphone other than a microphone used for voice communication.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising resetting speaker volume to an initial setting.

11. A method of compensating the volume of a speaker in response to ambient noise, comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting an initial volume level for the speaker in the presence of substantially zero ambient noise;

(b) subsequently sampling a non-zero level of ambient noise;

(c) automatically increasing the volume of the speaker in response to the sampled non-zero level of ambient noise from the initial volume level to a level sufficient to overcome the sampled non-zero level of ambient noise; and

(d) maintaining the volume of the speaker at the level sufficient to overcome the sampled non-zero level of ambient noise for a predetermined period of time.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the speaker is associated with a communications device.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the communications device is a mobile communications device.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the mobile communications device is a mobile telephone.

15. The method of claim 11, further comprising resampling the ambient noise and adjusting the volume of the speaker in response to the level of the resampled ambient noise.

16. The method of claim 11, further comprising resetting the volume of the speaker to the initial volume level.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising resetting the volume when at least one of a telephone call is completed and the power to a device with which the speaker is associated is turned off.

18. A mobile communications device, comprising:
a display screen, a speaker and at least one microphone housed in a body; and
means for adjusting a volume level of the speaker in response to ambient noise,
wherein the means for adjusting is operable to sample the ambient noise, determine whether the sampled ambient noise is greater than a threshold level of ambient noise, and automatically cause the volume of the speaker to increase to a level sufficient to overcome the sampled ambient noise.

19. The device of claim 18, further comprising a second microphone, wherein the second microphone samples the ambient noise.

20. The device of claim 18, wherein the display screen displays a menu via which the means for adjusting can be enabled.

21. The device of claim 18, further comprising a button operable to enable the means for adjusting.

22. The device of claim 18, wherein the means for adjusting is operable to cause the volume of the speaker to decrease.

23. The device of claim 18, wherein the means for adjusting periodically samples the ambient noise.

24. The device of claim 18, wherein the means for adjusting is operable to set an initial volume level for the speaker.

25. The device of claim 24, wherein the means for adjusting is operable to reset the volume level of the speaker to the initial volume level.